

/103 cont./ It is therefore

624 not surprising that many Guarani do not have a clear idea of the
182 functions that we occidentals attribute to the office of capitão.
824 They fail to seek him out when it would be proper for him to
take energetic measures to re-establish order or to guarantee the
security of the group, and, on the other hand, they run to him
[126] about matters of little importance. I have met Guarani who re-
fused to be photographed before obtaining formal permission
from the mburuvixá (or ñanderúvixá, as the Mbã also call
him).

62 The political chieftaincy has, as we have seen, a strictly
182 local basis, a jurisdiction that includes all the individuals in the
village, while the religious one is at the same time familial, in-
asmuch as the followers of the ñanderú are made up of one, two,
or more families constituting a neighborhood group and not neces-
sarily the whole village.

622 Among the Mbã of Rio Branco, who do not have an Indian
624 post, but who like to take trips to the cities that are more or less
177 close, therefore having frequent contacts with civilization, each
182 chief of a family (or of a "trinca," as they say) may, according
184 to the circumstances, assume the responsibilities of mburuvixá.
[596] While traveling, the family chief is at the same time the "capitão"
[484] of the group that accompanies him. And the individual who wants
• [486] to travel asks his family chief for permission. Furthermore, one
notes in this village a kind of division of labor concerning the
functions of the capitão. For external purposes, having need of
contact with representatives of the Government, in order to defend
the rights or interests of the collectivity, /104/ the capitão is
Francisco, who speaks Portuguese quite well. Alcides, who seems
to have been appointed to the position years ago, preferably exer-
cises jurisdiction within the group; he is the one, for example,
who performs marriages in the village. Marcelino, older brother
of Alcides, and certainly the principal prayer-man and director of
religious celebrations, is considered the true chief of Rio Branco;
it is in his house that visitors are given hospitality.